## 1 "SEC. 615. PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS.

4	PROCEDURES.—Any State	$\overline{\text{OF}}$	) Establishment	"(a)	2
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- 3 educational agency, State agency, or local educational
- 4 agency that receives assistance under this part shall estab-
- 5 lish and maintain procedures in accordance with this sec-
- 6 tion to ensure that children with disabilities and their par-
- 7 ents are guaranteed procedural safeguards with respect to
- 8 the provision of a free appropriate public education by
- 9 such agencies.
- 10 "(b) Types of Procedures.—The procedures re-
- 11 quired by this section shall include the following:
- 12 "(1) An opportunity for the parents of a child
- with a disability to examine all records relating to
- such child and to participate in meetings with re-
- spect to the identification, evaluation, and edu-
- cational placement of the child, and the provision of
- a free appropriate public education to such child,
- and to obtain an independent educational evaluation
- of the child.
- 20 "(2)(A) Procedures to protect the rights of the
- 21 child whenever the parents of the child are not
- known, the agency cannot, after reasonable efforts,
- locate the parents, or the child is a ward of the
- State, including the assignment of an individual to
- act as a surrogate for the parents, which surrogate
- shall not be an employee of the State educational

1	agency, the local educational agency, or any other
2	agency that is involved in the education or care of
3	the child. In the case of—
4	"(i) a child who is a ward of the State,
5	such surrogate may alternatively be appointed
6	by the judge overseeing the child's care pro-
7	vided that the surrogate meets the requirements
8	of this paragraph; and
9	"(ii) an unaccompanied homeless youth as
10	defined in section 725(6) of the McKinney-
11	Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
12	11434a(6)), the local educational agency shall
13	appoint a surrogate in accordance with this
14	paragraph.
15	"(B) The State shall make reasonable efforts to
16	ensure the assignment of a surrogate not more than
17	30 days after there is a determination by the agency
18	that the child needs a surrogate.
19	"(3) Written prior notice to the parents of the
20	child, in accordance with subsection $(c)(1)$ , whenever
21	the local educational agency—
22	"(A) proposes to initiate or change; or
23	"(B) refuses to initiate or change,

1	the identification, evaluation, or educational place-
2	ment of the child, or the provision of a free appro-
3	priate public education to the child.
4	"(4) Procedures designed to ensure that the no-
5	tice required by paragraph (3) is in the native lan-
6	guage of the parents, unless it clearly is not feasible
7	to do so.
8	"(5) An opportunity for mediation, in accord-
9	ance with subsection (e).
10	"(6) An opportunity for any party to present a
11	complaint—
12	"(A) with respect to any matter relating to
13	the identification, evaluation, or educational
14	placement of the child, or the provision of a free
15	appropriate public education to such child; and
16	"(B) which sets forth an alleged violation
17	that occurred not more than 2 years before the
18	date the parent or public agency knew or should
19	have known about the alleged action that forms
20	the basis of the complaint, or, if the State has
21	an explicit time limitation for presenting such a
22	complaint under this part, in such time as the
23	State law allows, except that the exceptions to
24	the timeline described in subsection (f)(3)(D)

1	shall apply to the timeline described in this sub-
2	paragraph.
3	"(7)(A) Procedures that require either party, or
4	the attorney representing a party, to provide due
5	process complaint notice in accordance with sub-
6	section (c)(2) (which shall remain confidential)—
7	"(i) to the other party, in the complaint
8	filed under paragraph (6), and forward a copy
9	of such notice to the State educational agency
10	and
11	"(ii) that shall include—
12	"(I) the name of the child, the ad-
13	dress of the residence of the child (or avail-
14	able contact information in the case of a
15	homeless child), and the name of the
16	school the child is attending;
17	"(II) in the case of a homeless child
18	or youth (within the meaning of section
19	725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless
20	Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))
21	available contact information for the child
22	and the name of the school the child is at-
23	tending;
24	"(III) a description of the nature of
25	the problem of the child relating to such

1	proposed initiation or change, including
2	facts relating to such problem; and
3	"(IV) a proposed resolution of the
4	problem to the extent known and available
5	to the party at the time.
6	"(B) A requirement that a party may not have
7	a due process hearing until the party, or the attor-
8	ney representing the party, files a notice that meets
9	the requirements of subparagraph (A)(ii).
10	"(8) Procedures that require the State edu-
11	cational agency to develop a model form to assist
12	parents in filing a complaint and due process com-
13	plaint notice in accordance with paragraphs (6) and
14	(7), respectively.
15	"(c) Notification Requirements.—
16	"(1) Content of Prior Written Notice.—
17	The notice required by subsection (b)(3) shall
18	include—
19	"(A) a description of the action proposed
20	or refused by the agency;
21	"(B) an explanation of why the agency
22	proposes or refuses to take the action and a de-
23	scription of each evaluation procedure, assess-
24	ment, record, or report the agency used as a
25	basis for the proposed or refused action;

1	"(C) a statement that the parents of a
2	child with a disability have protection under the
3	procedural safeguards of this part and, if this
4	notice is not an initial referral for evaluation,
5	the means by which a copy of a description of
6	the procedural safeguards can be obtained;
7	"(D) sources for parents to contact to ob-
8	tain assistance in understanding the provisions
9	of this part;
10	"(E) a description of other options consid-
11	ered by the IEP Team and the reason why
12	those options were rejected; and
13	"(F) a description of the factors that are
14	relevant to the agency's proposal or refusal.
15	"(2) Due process complaint notice.—
16	"(A) COMPLAINT.—The due process com-
17	plaint notice required under subsection
18	(b)(7)(A) shall be deemed to be sufficient un-
19	less the party receiving the notice notifies the
20	hearing officer and the other party in writing
21	that the receiving party believes the notice has
22	not met the requirements of subsection
23	(b)(7)(A).
24	"(B) RESPONSE TO COMPLAINT.—

1	"(1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY
2	RESPONSE.—
3	"(I) IN GENERAL.—If the local
4	educational agency has not sent a
5	prior written notice to the parent re-
6	garding the subject matter contained
7	in the parent's due process complaint
8	notice, such local educational agency
9	shall, within 10 days of receiving the
10	complaint, send to the parent a re-
11	sponse that shall include—
12	"(aa) an explanation of why
13	the agency proposed or refused to
14	take the action raised in the com-
15	plaint;
16	"(bb) a description of other
17	options that the IEP Team con-
18	sidered and the reasons why
19	those options were rejected;
20	"(cc) a description of each
21	evaluation procedure, assessment,
22	record, or report the agency used
23	as the basis for the proposed or
24	refused action; and

1	"(dd) a description of the
2	factors that are relevant to the
3	agency's proposal or refusal.
4	"(II) Sufficiency.— A response
5	filed by a local educational agency
6	pursuant to subclause (I) shall not be
7	construed to preclude such local edu-
8	cational agency from asserting that
9	the parent's due process complaint no-
10	tice was insufficient where appro-
11	priate.
12	"(ii) Other party response.—Ex-
13	cept as provided in clause (i), the non-com-
14	plaining party shall, within 10 days of re-
15	ceiving the complaint, send to the com-
16	plaint a response that specifically address-
17	es the issues raised in the complaint.
18	"(C) TIMING.—The party providing a
19	hearing officer notification under subparagraph
20	(A) shall provide the notification within 15 days
21	of receiving the complaint.
22	"(D) Determination.—Within 5 days of
23	receipt of the notification provided under sub-
24	paragraph (C), the hearing officer shall make a
25	determination on the face of the notice of

1	whether the notification meets the requirements
2	of subsection (b)(7)(A), and shall immediately
3	notify the parties in writing of such determina-
4	tion.
5	"(E) AMENDED COMPLAINT NOTICE.—
6	"(i) In General.—A party may
7	amend its due process complaint notice
8	only if—
9	"(I) the other party consents in
10	writing to such amendment and is
11	given the opportunity to resolve the
12	complaint through a meeting held
13	pursuant to subsection (f)(1)(B); or
14	"(II) the hearing officer grants
15	permission, except that the hearing of-
16	ficer may only grant such permission
17	at any time not later than 5 days be-
18	fore a due process hearing occurs.
19	"(ii) Applicable timeline.—The
20	applicable timeline for a due process hear-
21	ing under this part shall recommence at
22	the time the party files an amended notice,
23	including the timeline under subsection
24	(f)(1)(B).
25	"(d) Procedural Safeguards Notice.—

1	"(1) In general.—
2	"(A) COPY TO PARENTS.—A copy of the
3	procedural safeguards available to the parents
4	of a child with a disability shall be given to the
5	parents only 1 time a year, except that a copy
6	also shall be given to the parents—
7	"(i) upon initial referral or parental
8	request for evaluation;
9	"(ii) upon the first occurrence of the
10	filing of a complaint under subsection
11	(b)(6); and
12	"(iii) upon request by a parent.
13	"(B) Internet website.—A local edu-
14	cational agency may place a current copy of the
15	procedural safeguards notice on its Internet
16	website if such website exists.
17	"(2) Contents.—The procedural safeguards
18	notice shall include a full explanation of the proce-
19	dural safeguards, written in the native language of
20	the parents (unless it clearly is not feasible to do so)
21	and written in an easily understandable manner,
22	available under this section and under regulations
23	promulgated by the Secretary relating to—
24	"(A) independent educational evaluation;
25	"(B) prior written notice;

1	"(C) parental consent;
2	"(D) access to educational records;
3	"(E) the opportunity to present and re-
4	solve complaints, including—
5	"(i) the time period in which to make
6	a complaint;
7	"(ii) the opportunity for the agency to
8	resolve the complaint; and
9	"(iii) the availability of mediation;
10	"(F) the child's placement during pend-
11	ency of due process proceedings;
12	"(G) procedures for students who are sub-
13	ject to placement in an interim alternative edu-
14	cational setting;
15	"(H) requirements for unilateral placement
16	by parents of children in private schools at pub-
17	lie expense;
18	"(I) due process hearings, including re-
19	quirements for disclosure of evaluation results
20	and recommendations;
21	"(J) State-level appeals (if applicable in
22	that State);
23	"(K) civil actions, including the time per
24	riod in which to file such actions; and
25	"(L) attorneys' fees.

1	"(e) MEDIATION.—
2	"(1) In General.—Any State educational
3	agency or local educational agency that receives as-
4	sistance under this part shall ensure that procedures
5	are established and implemented to allow parties to
6	disputes involving any matter, including matters
7	arising prior to the filing of a complaint pursuant to
8	subsection (b)(6), to resolve such disputes through a
9	mediation process.
10	"(2) Requirements.—Such procedures shall
11	meet the following requirements:
12	"(A) The procedures shall ensure that the
13	mediation process—
14	"(i) is voluntary on the part of the
15	parties;
16	"(ii) is not used to deny or delay a
17	parent's right to a due process hearing
18	under subsection (f), or to deny any other
19	rights afforded under this part; and
20	"(iii) is conducted by a qualified and
21	impartial mediator who is trained in effec-
22	tive mediation techniques.
23	"(B) Opportunity to meet with a dis-
24	INTERESTED PARTY.—A local educational agen-
25	cy or a State agency may establish procedures

1	to offer to parents and schools that choose not
2	to use the mediation process, an opportunity to
3	meet, at a time and location convenient to the
4	parents, with a disinterested party who is under
5	contract with—
6	"(i) a parent training and information
7	center or community parent resource cen-
8	ter in the State established under section
9	671 or 672; or
10	"(ii) an appropriate alternative dis-
11	pute resolution entity,
12	to encourage the use, and explain the benefits,
13	of the mediation process to the parents.
14	"(C) List of qualified mediators.—
15	The State shall maintain a list of individuals
16	who are qualified mediators and knowledgeable
17	in laws and regulations relating to the provision
18	of special education and related services.
19	"(D) Costs.—The State shall bear the
20	cost of the mediation process, including the
21	costs of meetings described in subparagraph
22	(B).
23	"(E) SCHEDULING AND LOCATION.—Each
24	session in the mediation process shall be sched-
25	uled in a timely manner and shall be held in a

1	location that is convenient to the parties to the
2	dispute.
3	"(F) Written agreement.—In the case
4	that a resolution is reached to resolve the com-
5	plaint through the mediation process, the par-
6	ties shall execute a legally binding agreement
7	that sets forth such resolution and that—
8	"(i) states that all discussions that oc-
9	curred during the mediation process shall
10	be confidential and may not be used as evi-
11	dence in any subsequent due process hear-
12	ing or civil proceeding;
13	"(ii) is signed by both the parent and
14	a representative of the agency who has the
15	authority to bind such agency; and
16	"(iii) is enforceable in any State court
17	of competent jurisdiction or in a district
18	court of the United States.
19	"(G) Mediation discussions.—Discus-
20	sions that occur during the mediation process
21	shall be confidential and may not be used as
22	evidence in any subsequent due process hearing
23	or civil proceeding.
24	"(f) Impartial Due Process Hearing.—
25	"(1) In general.—

1	"(A) Hearing.—Whenever a complaint
2	has been received under subsection (b)(6) or
3	(k), the parents or the local educational agency
4	involved in such complaint shall have an oppor-
5	tunity for an impartial due process hearing,
6	which shall be conducted by the State edu-
7	cational agency or by the local educational
8	agency, as determined by State law or by the
9	State educational agency.
10	"(B) Resolution session.—
11	"(i) Preliminary meeting.—Prior
12	to the opportunity for an impartial due
13	process hearing under subparagraph (A),
14	the local educational agency shall convene
15	a meeting with the parents and the rel-
16	evant member or members of the IEP
17	Team who have specific knowledge of the
18	facts identified in the complaint—
19	"(I) within 15 days of receiving
20	notice of the parents' complaint;
21	"(II) which shall include a rep-
22	resentative of the agency who has de-
23	cisionmaking authority on behalf of
24	such agency;

1	"(III) which may not include an
2	attorney of the local educational agen-
3	cy unless the parent is accompanied
4	by an attorney; and
5	"(IV) where the parents of the
6	child discuss their complaint, and the
7	facts that form the basis of the com-
8	plaint, and the local educational agen-
9	cy is provided the opportunity to re-
10	solve the complaint,
11	unless the parents and the local edu-
12	cational agency agree in writing to waive
13	such meeting, or agree to use the medi-
14	ation process described in subsection (e).
15	"(ii) Hearing.—If the local edu-
16	cational agency has not resolved the com-
17	plaint to the satisfaction of the parents
18	within 30 days of the receipt of the com-
19	plaint, the due process hearing may occur,
20	and all of the applicable timelines for a
21	due process hearing under this part shall
22	commence.
23	"(iii) Written settlement agree-
24	MENT.—In the case that a resolution is
25	reached to resolve the complaint at a meet-

1	ing described in clause (i), the parties shall
2	execute a legally binding agreement that
3	is—
4	"(I) signed by both the parent
5	and a representative of the agency
6	who has the authority to bind such
7	agency; and
8	"(II) enforceable in any State
9	court of competent jurisdiction or in a
10	district court of the United States.
11	"(iv) REVIEW PERIOD.—If the parties
12	execute an agreement pursuant to clause
13	(iii), a party may void such agreement
14	within 3 business days of the agreement's
15	execution.
16	"(2) Disclosure of evaluations and rec-
17	OMMENDATIONS.—
18	"(A) In general.—Not less than 5 busi-
19	ness days prior to a hearing conducted pursu-
20	ant to paragraph (1), each party shall disclose
21	to all other parties all evaluations completed by
22	that date, and recommendations based on the
23	offering party's evaluations, that the party in-
24	tends to use at the hearing.

1	"(B) Failure to disclose.—A hearing
2	officer may bar any party that fails to comply
3	with subparagraph (A) from introducing the
4	relevant evaluation or recommendation at the
5	hearing without the consent of the other party.
6	"(3) Limitations on Hearing.—
7	"(A) Person conducting hearing.—A
8	hearing officer conducting a hearing pursuant
9	to paragraph (1)(A) shall, at a minimum—
10	"(i) not be—
11	"(I) an employee of the State
12	educational agency or the local edu-
13	cational agency involved in the edu-
14	cation or care of the child; or
15	"(II) a person having a personal
16	or professional interest that conflicts
17	with the person's objectivity in the
18	hearing;
19	"(ii) possess knowledge of, and the
20	ability to understand, the provisions of this
21	title, Federal and State regulations per-
22	taining to this title, and legal interpreta-
23	tions of this title by Federal and State
24	courts;

1	"(iii) possess the knowledge and abil-
2	ity to conduct hearings in accordance with
3	appropriate, standard legal practice; and
4	"(iv) possess the knowledge and abil-
5	ity to render and write decisions in accord-
6	ance with appropriate, standard legal prac-
7	tice.
8	"(B) Subject matter of hearing.—
9	The party requesting the due process hearing
10	shall not be allowed to raise issues at the due
11	process hearing that were not raised in the no-
12	tice filed under subsection (b)(7), unless the
13	other party agrees otherwise.
14	"(C) Timeline for requesting hear-
15	ING.—A parent or agency shall request an im-
16	partial due process hearing within 2 years of
17	the date the parent or agency knew or should
18	have known about the alleged action that forms
19	the basis of the complaint, or, if the State has
20	an explicit time limitation for requesting such a
21	hearing under this part, in such time as the
22	State law allows.
23	"(D) EXCEPTIONS TO THE TIMELINE.—
24	The timeline described in subparagraph (C)

1	shall not apply to a parent if the parent was
2	prevented from requesting the hearing due to—
3	"(i) specific misrepresentations by the
4	local educational agency that it had re-
5	solved the problem forming the basis of the
6	complaint; or
7	"(ii) the local educational agency's
8	withholding of information from the parent
9	that was required under this part to be
10	provided to the parent.
11	"(E) Decision of Hearing officer.—
12	"(i) In general.—Subject to clause
13	(ii), a decision made by a hearing officer
14	shall be made on substantive grounds
15	based on a determination of whether the
16	child received a free appropriate public
17	education.
18	"(ii) Procedural issues.—In mat-
19	ters alleging a procedural violation, a hear-
20	ing officer may find that a child did not re-
21	ceive a free appropriate public education
22	only if the procedural inadequacies—
23	"(I) impeded the child's right to
24	a free appropriate public education;

1	"(II) significantly impeded the
2	parents' opportunity to participate in
3	the decisionmaking process regarding
4	the provision of a free appropriate
5	public education to the parents' child;
6	or
7	"(III) caused a deprivation of
8	educational benefits.
9	"(iii) Rule of construction.—
10	Nothing in this subparagraph shall be con-
11	strued to preclude a hearing officer from
12	ordering a local educational agency to com-
13	ply with procedural requirements under
14	this section.
15	"(F) Rule of Construction.—Nothing
16	in this paragraph shall be construed to affect
17	the right of a parent to file a complaint with
18	the State educational agency.
19	"(g) Appeal.—
20	"(1) In general.—If the hearing required by
21	subsection (f) is conducted by a local educational
22	agency, any party aggrieved by the findings and de-
23	cision rendered in such a hearing may appeal such
24	findings and decision to the State educational agen-
25	cy.

1	"(2) Impartial review and independent
2	DECISION.—The State educational agency shall con-
3	duct an impartial review of the findings and decision
4	appealed under paragraph (1). The officer con-
5	ducting such review shall make an independent deci-
6	sion upon completion of such review.
7	"(h) Safeguards.—Any party to a hearing con-
8	ducted pursuant to subsection (f) or (k), or an appeal con-
9	ducted pursuant to subsection (g), shall be accorded—
10	"(1) the right to be accompanied and advised
11	by counsel and by individuals with special knowledge
12	or training with respect to the problems of children
13	with disabilities;
14	"(2) the right to present evidence and confront
15	cross-examine, and compel the attendance of wit-
16	nesses;
17	"(3) the right to a written, or, at the option of
18	the parents, electronic verbatim record of such hear-
19	ing; and
20	"(4) the right to written, or, at the option of
21	the parents, electronic findings of fact and decisions
22	which findings and decisions—
23	"(A) shall be made available to the public
24	consistent with the requirements of section

1	617(b) (relating to the confidentiality of data
2	information, and records); and
3	"(B) shall be transmitted to the advisory
4	panel established pursuant to section
5	612(a)(21).
6	"(i) Administrative Procedures.—
7	"(1) In general.—
8	"(A) DECISION MADE IN HEARING.—A de-
9	cision made in a hearing conducted pursuant to
10	subsection (f) or (k) shall be final, except that
11	any party involved in such hearing may appeal
12	such decision under the provisions of subsection
13	(g) and paragraph (2).
14	"(B) Decision made at appeal.—A de-
15	cision made under subsection (g) shall be final
16	except that any party may bring an action
17	under paragraph (2).
18	"(2) Right to bring civil action.—
19	"(A) In General.—Any party aggrieved
20	by the findings and decision made under sub-
21	section (f) or (k) who does not have the right
22	to an appeal under subsection (g), and any
23	party aggrieved by the findings and decision
24	made under this subsection, shall have the right
25	to bring a civil action with respect to the com-

1	plaint presented pursuant to this section, which
2	action may be brought in any State court of
3	competent jurisdiction or in a district court of
4	the United States, without regard to the
5	amount in controversy.
6	"(B) LIMITATION.—The party bringing the
7	action shall have 90 days from the date of the
8	decision of the hearing officer to bring such an
9	action, or, if the State has an explicit time limi-
10	tation for bringing such action under this part,
11	in such time as the State law allows.
12	"(C) Additional requirements.—In
13	any action brought under this paragraph, the
14	court—
15	"(i) shall receive the records of the
16	administrative proceedings;
17	"(ii) shall hear additional evidence at
18	the request of a party; and
19	"(iii) basing its decision on the pre-
20	ponderance of the evidence, shall grant
21	such relief as the court determines is ap-
22	propriate.
23	"(3) Jurisdiction of district courts; at-
24	TORNEYS' FEES.—

1	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The district courts of
2	the United States shall have jurisdiction of ac-
3	tions brought under this section without regard
4	to the amount in controversy.
5	"(B) Award of attorneys' fees.—
6	"(i) In general.—In any action or
7	proceeding brought under this section, the
8	court, in its discretion, may award reason-
9	able attorneys' fees as part of the costs—
10	"(I) to a prevailing party who is
11	the parent of a child with a disability;
12	"(II) to a prevailing party who is
13	a State educational agency or local
14	educational agency against the attor-
15	ney of a parent who files a complaint
16	or subsequent cause of action that is
17	frivolous, unreasonable, or without
18	foundation, or against the attorney of
19	a parent who continued to litigate
20	after the litigation clearly became friv-
21	olous, unreasonable, or without foun-
22	dation; or
23	"(III) to a prevailing State edu-
24	cational agency or local educational
25	agency against the attorney of a par-

1	ent, or against the parent, if the par-
2	ent's complaint or subsequent cause of
3	action was presented for any improper
4	purpose, such as to harass, to cause
5	unnecessary delay, or to needlessly in-
6	crease the cost of litigation.
7	"(ii) Rule of construction.—
8	Nothing in this subparagraph shall be con-
9	strued to affect section 327 of the District
10	of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2005.
11	"(C) Determination of amount of at-
12	TORNEYS' FEES.—Fees awarded under this
13	paragraph shall be based on rates prevailing in
14	the community in which the action or pro-
15	ceeding arose for the kind and quality of serv-
16	ices furnished. No bonus or multiplier may be
17	used in calculating the fees awarded under this
18	subsection.
19	"(D) Prohibition of attorneys' fees
20	AND RELATED COSTS FOR CERTAIN SERV-
21	ICES.—
22	"(i) In General.—Attorneys' fees
23	may not be awarded and related costs may
24	not be reimbursed in any action or pro-
25	ceeding under this section for services per-

1	formed subsequent to the time of a written
2	offer of settlement to a parent if—
3	"(I) the offer is made within the
4	time prescribed by Rule 68 of the
5	Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or,
6	in the case of an administrative pro-
7	ceeding, at any time more than 10
8	days before the proceeding begins;
9	"(II) the offer is not accepted
10	within 10 days; and
11	"(III) the court or administrative
12	hearing officer finds that the relief fi-
13	nally obtained by the parents is not
14	more favorable to the parents than
15	the offer of settlement.
16	"(ii) IEP TEAM MEETINGS.—Attor-
17	neys' fees may not be awarded relating to
18	any meeting of the IEP Team unless such
19	meeting is convened as a result of an ad-
20	ministrative proceeding or judicial action,
21	or, at the discretion of the State, for a me-
22	diation described in subsection (e).
23	"(iii) Opportunity to resolve
24	COMPLAINTS.—A meeting conducted pur-

1	suant to subsection $(f)(1)(B)(i)$ shall not
2	be considered—
3	"(I) a meeting convened as a re-
4	sult of an administrative hearing or
5	judicial action; or
6	"(II) an administrative hearing
7	or judicial action for purposes of this
8	paragraph.
9	"(E) Exception to prohibition on at-
10	TORNEYS' FEES AND RELATED COSTS.—Not-
11	withstanding subparagraph (D), an award of
12	attorneys' fees and related costs may be made
13	to a parent who is the prevailing party and who
14	was substantially justified in rejecting the set-
15	tlement offer.
16	"(F) REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF ATTOR-
17	NEYS' FEES.—Except as provided in subpara-
18	graph (G), whenever the court finds that—
19	"(i) the parent, or the parent's attor-
20	ney, during the course of the action or pro-
21	ceeding, unreasonably protracted the final
22	resolution of the controversy;
23	"(ii) the amount of the attorneys' fees
24	otherwise authorized to be awarded unrea-
25	sonably exceeds the hourly rate prevailing

1	in the community for similar services by
2	attorneys of reasonably comparable skill,
3	reputation, and experience;
4	"(iii) the time spent and legal services
5	furnished were excessive considering the
6	nature of the action or proceeding; or
7	"(iv) the attorney representing the
8	parent did not provide to the local edu-
9	cational agency the appropriate informa-
10	tion in the notice of the complaint de-
11	scribed in subsection (b)(7)(A),
12	the court shall reduce, accordingly, the amount
13	of the attorneys' fees awarded under this sec-
14	tion.
15	"(G) Exception to reduction in
16	AMOUNT OF ATTORNEYS' FEES.—The provi-
17	sions of subparagraph (F) shall not apply in
18	any action or proceeding if the court finds that
19	the State or local educational agency unreason-
20	ably protracted the final resolution of the action
21	or proceeding or there was a violation of this
22	section.
23	"(j) Maintenance of Current Educational
24	Placement.—Except as provided in subsection (k)(4),
25	during the pendency of any proceedings conducted pursu-

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- ant to this section, unless the State or local educational 2 agency and the parents otherwise agree, the child shall 3 remain in the then-current educational placement of the 4 child, or, if applying for initial admission to a public 5 school, shall, with the consent of the parents, be placed in the public school program until all such proceedings 6 7 have been completed. 8 "(k) Placement in Alternative Educational 9 Setting.— "(1) AUTHORITY OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL.— 10 "(A) 11 Case-by-case determination.— 12 School personnel may consider any unique cir-13 cumstances on a case-by-case basis when deter-14 mining whether to order a change in placement 15 for a child with a disability who violates a code 16 of student conduct. 17 "(B) AUTHORITY.—School personnel under 18 19
  - "(B) AUTHORITY.—School personnel under this subsection may remove a child with a disability who violates a code of student conduct from their current placement to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting, another setting, or suspension, for not more than 10 school days (to the extent such alternatives are applied to children without disabilities).

"(C) Additional authority.—If school
personnel seek to order a change in placement
that would exceed 10 school days and the be-
havior that gave rise to the violation of the
school code is determined not to be a manifesta-
tion of the child's disability pursuant to sub-
paragraph (E), the relevant disciplinary proce-
dures applicable to children without disabilities
may be applied to the child in the same manner
and for the same duration in which the proce-
dures would be applied to children without dis-
abilities, except as provided in section 612(a)(1)
although it may be provided in an interim alter-
native educational setting.
"(D) Services.—A child with a disability
who is removed from the child's current place-
ment under subparagraph (G) (irrespective of
whether the behavior is determined to be a
manifestation of the child's disability) or sub-
paragraph (C) shall—
"(i) continue to receive educational
services, as provided in section 612(a)(1),
so as to enable the child to continue to
participate in the general education cur-
riculum, although in another setting, and

1	to progress toward meeting the goals set
2	out in the child's IEP; and
3	"(ii) receive, as appropriate, a func-
4	tional behavioral assessment, behavioral
5	intervention services and modifications,
6	that are designed to address the behavior
7	violation so that it does not recur.
8	"(E) Manifestation determination.—
9	"(i) In general.—Except as pro-
10	vided in subparagraph (B), within 10
11	school days of any decision to change the
12	placement of a child with a disability be-
13	cause of a violation of a code of student
14	conduct, the local educational agency, the
15	parent, and relevant members of the IEP
16	Team (as determined by the parent and
17	the local educational agency) shall review
18	all relevant information in the student's
19	file, including the child's IEP, any teacher
20	observations, and any relevant information
21	provided by the parents to determine—
22	"(I) if the conduct in question
23	was caused by, or had a direct and
24	substantial relationship to, the child's
25	disability; or

1	"(II) if the conduct in question
2	was the direct result of the local edu-
3	cational agency's failure to implement
4	the IEP.
5	"(ii) Manifestation.—If the local
6	educational agency, the parent, and rel-
7	evant members of the IEP Team deter-
8	mine that either subclause (I) or (II) of
9	clause (i) is applicable for the child, the
10	conduct shall be determined to be a mani-
11	festation of the child's disability.
12	"(F) Determination that behavior
13	WAS A MANIFESTATION.—If the local edu-
14	cational agency, the parent, and relevant mem-
15	bers of the IEP Team make the determination
16	that the conduct was a manifestation of the
17	child's disability, the IEP Team shall—
18	"(i) conduct a functional behavioral
19	assessment, and implement a behavioral
20	intervention plan for such child, provided
21	that the local educational agency had not
22	conducted such assessment prior to such
23	determination before the behavior that re-
24	sulted in a change in placement described
25	in subparagraph (C) or (G);

1	"(11) in the situation where a behav-
2	ioral intervention plan has been developed,
3	review the behavioral intervention plan if
4	the child already has such a behavioral
5	intervention plan, and modify it, as nec-
6	essary, to address the behavior; and
7	"(iii) except as provided in subpara-
8	graph (G), return the child to the place-
9	ment from which the child was removed,
10	unless the parent and the local educational
11	agency agree to a change of placement as
12	part of the modification of the behavioral
13	intervention plan.
14	"(G) Special circumstances.—School
15	personnel may remove a student to an interim
16	alternative educational setting for not more
17	than 45 school days without regard to whether
18	the behavior is determined to be a manifesta-
19	tion of the child's disability, in cases where a
20	child—
21	"(i) carries or possesses a weapon to
22	or at school, on school premises, or to or
23	at a school function under the jurisdiction
24	of a State or local educational agency;

I	"(11) knowingly possesses or uses ille-
2	gal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a
3	controlled substance, while at school, or
4	school premises, or at a school function
5	under the jurisdiction of a State or local
6	educational agency; or
7	"(iii) has inflicted serious bodily in-
8	jury upon another person while at school
9	on school premises, or at a school function
10	under the jurisdiction of a State or local
11	educational agency.
12	"(H) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than the
13	date on which the decision to take disciplinary
14	action is made, the local educational agency
15	shall notify the parents of that decision, and of
16	all procedural safeguards accorded under this
17	section.
18	"(2) Determination of setting.—The in-
19	terim alternative educational setting in subpara-
20	graphs (C) and (G) of paragraph (1) shall be deter-
21	mined by the IEP Team.
22	"(3) Appeal.—
23	"(A) IN GENERAL.—The parent of a child
24	with a disability who disagrees with any deci-
25	sion regarding placement, or the manifestation

1	determination under this subsection, or a local
2	educational agency that believes that maintain-
3	ing the current placement of the child is sub-
4	stantially likely to result in injury to the child
5	or to others, may request a hearing.
6	"(B) Authority of Hearing Officer.—
7	"(i) In general.—A hearing officer
8	shall hear, and make a determination re-
9	garding, an appeal requested under sub-
10	paragraph (A).
11	"(ii) Change of placement
12	ORDER.—In making the determination
13	under clause (i), the hearing officer may
14	order a change in placement of a child
15	with a disability. In such situations, the
16	hearing officer may—
17	"(I) return a child with a dis-
18	ability to the placement from which
19	the child was removed; or
20	"(II) order a change in place-
21	ment of a child with a disability to an
22	appropriate interim alternative edu-
23	cational setting for not more than 45
24	school days if the hearing officer de-
25	termines that maintaining the current

1	placement of such child is substan-
2	tially likely to result in injury to the
3	child or to others.
4	"(4) PLACEMENT DURING APPEALS.—When an
5	appeal under paragraph (3) has been requested by
6	either the parent or the local educational agency—
7	"(A) the child shall remain in the interim
8	alternative educational setting pending the deci-
9	sion of the hearing officer or until the expira-
10	tion of the time period provided for in para-
11	graph (1)(C), whichever occurs first, unless the
12	parent and the State or local educational agen-
13	cy agree otherwise; and
14	"(B) the State or local educational agency
15	shall arrange for an expedited hearing, which
16	shall occur within 20 school days of the date
17	the hearing is requested and shall result in a
18	determination within 10 school days after the
19	hearing.
20	"(5) Protections for Children not yet
21	ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED
22	SERVICES.—
23	"(A) IN GENERAL.—A child who has not
24	been determined to be eligible for special edu-
25	cation and related services under this part and

1	who has engaged in behavior that violates a
2	code of student conduct, may assert any of the
3	protections provided for in this part if the local
4	educational agency had knowledge (as deter-
5	mined in accordance with this paragraph) that
6	the child was a child with a disability before the
7	behavior that precipitated the disciplinary ac-
8	tion occurred.
9	"(B) Basis of knowledge.—A local edu-
10	cational agency shall be deemed to have knowl-
11	edge that a child is a child with a disability if,
12	before the behavior that precipitated the dis-
13	ciplinary action occurred—
14	"(i) the parent of the child has ex-
15	pressed concern in writing to supervisory
16	or administrative personnel of the appro-
17	priate educational agency, or a teacher of
18	the child, that the child is in need of spe-
19	cial education and related services;
20	"(ii) the parent of the child has re-
21	quested an evaluation of the child pursuant
22	to section $614(a)(1)(B)$ ; or
23	"(iii) the teacher of the child, or other
24	personnel of the local educational agency,
25	has expressed specific concerns about a

1	pattern of behavior demonstrated by the
2	child, directly to the director of special
3	education of such agency or to other super-
4	visory personnel of the agency.
5	"(C) Exception.—A local educational
6	agency shall not be deemed to have knowledge
7	that the child is a child with a disability if the
8	parent of the child has not allowed an evalua-
9	tion of the child pursuant to section 614 or has
10	refused services under this part or the child has
11	been evaluated and it was determined that the
12	child was not a child with a disability under
13	this part.
14	"(D) Conditions that apply if no
15	BASIS OF KNOWLEDGE.—
16	"(i) In general.—If a local edu-
17	cational agency does not have knowledge
18	that a child is a child with a disability (in
19	accordance with subparagraph (B) or (C))
20	prior to taking disciplinary measures
21	against the child, the child may be sub-
22	jected to disciplinary measures applied to
23	children without disabilities who engaged
24	in comparable behaviors consistent with
25	clause (ii).

1	"(ii) Limitations.—If a request is
2	made for an evaluation of a child during
3	the time period in which the child is sub-
4	jected to disciplinary measures under this
5	subsection, the evaluation shall be con-
6	ducted in an expedited manner. If the child
7	is determined to be a child with a dis-
8	ability, taking into consideration informa-
9	tion from the evaluation conducted by the
10	agency and information provided by the
11	parents, the agency shall provide special
12	education and related services in accord-
13	ance with this part, except that, pending
14	the results of the evaluation, the child shall
15	remain in the educational placement deter-
16	mined by school authorities.
17	"(6) Referral to and action by law en-
18	FORCEMENT AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES.—
19	"(A) Rule of Construction.—Nothing
20	in this part shall be construed to prohibit an
21	agency from reporting a crime committed by a
22	child with a disability to appropriate authorities
23	or to prevent State law enforcement and judi-
24	cial authorities from exercising their respon-
25	sibilities with regard to the application of Fed-

1	eral and State law to crimes committed by a
2	child with a disability.
3	"(B) Transmittal of records.—An
4	agency reporting a crime committed by a child
5	with a disability shall ensure that copies of the
6	special education and disciplinary records of the
7	child are transmitted for consideration by the
8	appropriate authorities to whom the agency re-
9	ports the crime.
10	"(7) Definitions.—In this subsection:
11	"(A) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE.—The
12	term 'controlled substance' means a drug or
13	other substance identified under schedule I, II
14	III, IV, or V in section 202(c) of the Controlled
15	Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(e)).
16	"(B) ILLEGAL DRUG.—The term 'illegal
17	drug' means a controlled substance but does
18	not include a controlled substance that is legally
19	possessed or used under the supervision of a li-
20	censed health-care professional or that is legally
21	possessed or used under any other authority
22	under that Act or under any other provision of
23	Federal law.
24	"(C) Weapon.—The term 'weapon' has
25	the meaning given the term 'dangerous weapon'

1	under section $930(g)(2)$ of title 18, United	
2	States Code.	
3	"(D) Serious bodily injury.—The term	
4	'serious bodily injury' has the meaning given	
5	the term 'serious bodily injury' under para-	
6	graph (3) of subsection (h) of section 1365 of	
7	title 18, United States Code.	
8	"(l) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this title	
9	shall be construed to restrict or limit the rights, proce-	
10	dures, and remedies available under the Constitution, the	
11	Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, title V of the Re-	
12	habilitation Act of 1973, or other Federal laws protecting	
13	the rights of children with disabilities, except that before	
14	the filing of a civil action under such laws seeking relief	
15	that is also available under this part, the procedures under	
16	subsections (f) and (g) shall be exhausted to the same ex-	
17	tent as would be required had the action been brought	
18	under this part.	
19	"(m) Transfer of Parental Rights at Age of	
20	Majority.—	
21	"(1) In General.—A State that receives	
22	amounts from a grant under this part may provide	
23	that, when a child with a disability reaches the age	
24	of majority under State law (except for a child with	

1	a disability who has been determined to be incom-
2	petent under State law)—
3	"(A) the agency shall provide any notice
4	required by this section to both the individual
5	and the parents;
6	"(B) all other rights accorded to parents
7	under this part transfer to the child;
8	"(C) the agency shall notify the individual
9	and the parents of the transfer of rights; and
10	"(D) all rights accorded to parents under
11	this part transfer to children who are incarcer-
12	ated in an adult or juvenile Federal, State, or
13	local correctional institution.
14	"(2) Special Rule.—If, under State law, a
15	child with a disability who has reached the age of
16	majority under State law, who has not been deter-
17	mined to be incompetent, but who is determined not
18	to have the ability to provide informed consent with
19	respect to the educational program of the child, the
20	State shall establish procedures for appointing the
21	parent of the child, or if the parent is not available,
22	another appropriate individual, to represent the edu-
23	cational interests of the child throughout the period
24	of eligibility of the child under this part.

1	"(n) ELECTRONIC MAIL.—A parent of a child with	
2	a disability may elect to receive notices required under this	
3	section by an electronic mail (e-mail) communication,	
4	the agency makes such option available.	
5	"(o) SEPARATE COMPLAINT.—Nothing in this section	
6	shall be construed to preclude a parent from filing a sepa-	
7	rate due process complaint on an issue separate from	
8	due process complaint already filed.	
9	"SEC. 616. MONITORING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND EN	
10	FORCEMENT.	
11	"(a) Federal and State Monitoring.—	
12	"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—	
13	"(A) monitor implementation of this part	
14	through—	
15	"(i) oversight of the exercise of gen-	
16	eral supervision by the States, as required	
17	in section $612(a)(11)$ ; and	
18	"(ii) the State performance plans, de-	
19	scribed in subsection (b);	
20	"(B) enforce this part in accordance with	
21	subsection (e); and	
22	"(C) require States to—	
23	"(i) monitor implementation of this	
24	part by local educational agencies; and	

1	"(ii) enforce this part in accordance
2	with paragraph (3) and subsection (e).
3	"(2) Focused monitoring.—The primary
4	focus of Federal and State monitoring activities de-
5	scribed in paragraph (1) shall be on—
6	"(A) improving educational results and
7	functional outcomes for all children with dis-
8	abilities; and
9	"(B) ensuring that States meet the pro-
10	gram requirements under this part, with a par-
11	ticular emphasis on those requirements that are
12	most closely related to improving educational
13	results for children with disabilities.
14	"(3) Monitoring Priorities.—The Secretary
15	shall monitor the States, and shall require each
16	State to monitor the local educational agencies lo-
17	cated in the State (except the State exercise of gen-
18	eral supervisory responsibility), using quantifiable
19	indicators in each of the following priority areas,
20	and using such qualitative indicators as are needed
21	to adequately measure performance in the following
22	priority areas:
23	"(A) Provision of a free appropriate public
24	education in the least restrictive environment.

1	"(B) State exercise of general supervisory
2	authority, including child find, effective moni-
3	toring, the use of resolution sessions, mediation,
4	voluntary binding arbitration, and a system of
5	transition services as defined in sections
6	602(34) and $637(a)(9)$ .
7	"(C) Disproportionate representation of ra-
8	cial and ethnic groups in special education and
9	related services, to the extent the representation
10	is the result of inappropriate identification.
11	"(4) Permissive areas of review.—The Sec-
12	retary shall consider other relevant information and
13	data, including data provided by States under sec-
14	tion 618.
15	"(b) State Performance Plans.—
16	"(1) Plan.—
17	"(A) In general.—Not later than 1 year
18	after the date of enactment of the Individuals
19	with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of
20	2004, each State shall have in place a perform-
21	ance plan that evaluates that State's efforts to
22	implement the requirements and purposes of
23	this part and describes how the State will im-
24	prove such implementation.

1	"(B) Submission for approval.—Each
2	State shall submit the State's performance plan
3	to the Secretary for approval in accordance with
4	the approval process described in subsection (c).
5	"(C) Review.—Each State shall review its
6	State performance plan at least once every 6
7	years and submit any amendments to the Sec-
8	retary.
9	"(2) Targets.—
10	"(A) IN GENERAL.—As a part of the State
11	performance plan described under paragraph
12	(1), each State shall establish measurable and
13	rigorous targets for the indicators established
14	under the priority areas described in subsection
15	(a)(3).
16	"(B) Data collection.—
17	"(i) In general.—Each State shall
18	collect valid and reliable information as
19	needed to report annually to the Secretary
20	on the priority areas described in sub-
21	section (a)(3).
22	"(ii) Rule of construction.—
23	Nothing in this title shall be construed to
24	authorize the development of a nationwide
25	database of personally identifiable informa-

1	tion on individuals involved in studies or
2	other collections of data under this part.
3	"(C) Public reporting and privacy.—
4	"(i) In general.—The State shall
5	use the targets established in the plan and
6	priority areas described in subsection
7	(a)(3) to analyze the performance of each
8	local educational agency in the State in im-
9	plementing this part.
10	"(ii) Report.—
11	"(I) Public Report.—The
12	State shall report annually to the pub-
13	lic on the performance of each loca
14	educational agency located in the
15	State on the targets in the State's
16	performance plan. The State shal
17	make the State's performance plan
18	available through public means, in-
19	cluding by posting on the website of
20	the State educational agency, distribu-
21	tion to the media, and distribution
22	through public agencies.
23	"(II) STATE PERFORMANCE RE-
24	PORT.—The State shall report annu-
25	ally to the Secretary on the perform

1	ance of the State under the State's
2	performance plan.
3	"(iii) Privacy.—The State shall not
4	report to the public or the Secretary any
5	information on performance that would re-
6	sult in the disclosure of personally identifi-
7	able information about individual children
8	or where the available data is insufficient
9	to yield statistically reliable information.
10	"(c) Approval Process.—
11	"(1) DEEMED APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall
12	review (including the specific provisions described in
13	subsection (b)) each performance plan submitted by
14	a State pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(B) and the
15	plan shall be deemed to be approved by the Sec-
16	retary unless the Secretary makes a written deter-
17	mination, prior to the expiration of the 120-day pe-
18	riod beginning on the date on which the Secretary
19	received the plan, that the plan does not meet the
20	requirements of this section, including the specific
21	provisions described in subsection (b).
22	"(2) DISAPPROVAL.—The Secretary shall not
23	finally disapprove a performance plan, except after
24	giving the State notice and an opportunity for a
25	hearing.

1	"(3) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary finds
2	that the plan does not meet the requirements, in
3	whole or in part, of this section, the Secretary
4	shall—
5	"(A) give the State notice and an oppor-
6	tunity for a hearing; and
7	"(B) notify the State of the finding, and in
8	such notification shall—
9	"(i) cite the specific provisions in the
10	plan that do not meet the requirements;
11	and
12	"(ii) request additional information,
13	only as to the provisions not meeting the
14	requirements, needed for the plan to meet
15	the requirements of this section.
16	"(4) RESPONSE.—If the State responds to the
17	Secretary's notification described in paragraph
18	(3)(B) during the 30-day period beginning on the
19	date on which the State received the notification,
20	and resubmits the plan with the requested informa-
21	tion described in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), the Secretary
22	shall approve or disapprove such plan prior to the
23	later of—

1	"(A) the expiration of the 30-day period
2	beginning on the date on which the plan is re-
3	submitted; or
4	"(B) the expiration of the 120-day period
5	described in paragraph (1).
6	"(5) Failure to respond.—If the State does
7	not respond to the Secretary's notification described
8	in paragraph (3)(B) during the 30-day period begin-
9	ning on the date on which the State received the no-
10	tification, such plan shall be deemed to be dis-
11	approved.
12	"(d) Secretary's Review and Determination.—
13	"(1) Review.—The Secretary shall annually
14	review the State performance report submitted pur-
15	suant to subsection $(b)(2)(C)(ii)(II)$ in accordance
16	with this section.
17	"(2) Determination.—
18	"(A) In general.—Based on the informa-
19	tion provided by the State in the State perform-
20	ance report, information obtained through mon-
21	itoring visits, and any other public information
22	made available, the Secretary shall determine if
23	the State—
24	"(i) meets the requirements and pur-
25	poses of this part;

1	"(ii) needs assistance in implementing
2	the requirements of this part;
3	"(iii) needs intervention in imple-
4	menting the requirements of this part; or
5	"(iv) needs substantial intervention in
6	implementing the requirements of this
7	part.
8	"(B) NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A
9	HEARING.—For determinations made under
10	clause (iii) or (iv) of subparagraph (A), the Sec-
11	retary shall provide reasonable notice and an
12	opportunity for a hearing on such determina-
13	tion.
14	"(e) Enforcement.—
15	"(1) Needs assistance.—If the Secretary de-
16	termines, for 2 consecutive years, that a State needs
17	assistance under subsection $(d)(2)(A)(ii)$ in imple-
18	menting the requirements of this part, the Secretary
19	shall take 1 or more of the following actions:
20	"(A) Advise the State of available sources
21	of technical assistance that may help the State
22	address the areas in which the State needs as-
23	sistance, which may include assistance from the
24	Office of Special Education Programs, other of-
25	fices of the Department of Education, other

1	Federal agencies, technical assistance providers
2	approved by the Secretary, and other federally
3	funded nonprofit agencies, and require the
4	State to work with appropriate entities. Such
5	technical assistance may include—
6	"(i) the provision of advice by experts
7	to address the areas in which the State
8	needs assistance, including explicit plans
9	for addressing the area for concern within
10	a specified period of time;
11	"(ii) assistance in identifying and im-
12	plementing professional development, in-
13	structional strategies, and methods of in-
14	struction that are based on scientifically
15	based research;
16	"(iii) designating and using distin-
17	guished superintendents, principals, special
18	education administrators, special education
19	teachers, and other teachers to provide ad-
20	vice, technical assistance, and support; and
21	"(iv) devising additional approaches to
22	providing technical assistance, such as col-
23	laborating with institutions of higher edu-
24	cation, educational service agencies, na-
25	tional centers of technical assistance sup-

1	ported under part D, and private providers
2	of scientifically based technical assistance.
3	"(B) Direct the use of State-level funds
4	under section 611(e) on the area or areas in
5	which the State needs assistance.
6	"(C) Identify the State as a high-risk
7	grantee and impose special conditions on the
8	State's grant under this part.
9	"(2) Needs intervention.—If the Secretary
10	determines, for 3 or more consecutive years, that a
11	State needs intervention under subsection
12	(d)(2)(A)(iii) in implementing the requirements of
13	this part, the following shall apply:
14	"(A) The Secretary may take any of the
15	actions described in paragraph (1).
16	"(B) The Secretary shall take 1 or more of
17	the following actions:
18	"(i) Require the State to prepare a
19	corrective action plan or improvement plan
20	if the Secretary determines that the State
21	should be able to correct the problem with-
22	in 1 year.
23	"(ii) Require the State to enter into a
24	compliance agreement under section 457 of
25	the General Education Provisions Act, if

1	the Secretary has reason to believe that
2	the State cannot correct the problem with-
3	in 1 year.
4	"(iii) For each year of the determina-
5	tion, withhold not less than 20 percent and
6	not more than 50 percent of the State's
7	funds under section 611(e), until the Sec-
8	retary determines the State has sufficiently
9	addressed the areas in which the State
10	needs intervention.
11	"(iv) Seek to recover funds under sec-
12	tion 452 of the General Education Provi-
13	sions Act.
14	"(v) Withhold, in whole or in part,
15	any further payments to the State under
16	this part pursuant to paragraph (5).
17	"(vi) Refer the matter for appropriate
18	enforcement action, which may include re-
19	ferral to the Department of Justice.
20	"(3) Needs substantial intervention.—
21	Notwithstanding paragraph (1) or (2), at any time
22	that the Secretary determines that a State needs
23	substantial intervention in implementing the require-
24	ments of this part or that there is a substantial fail-
25	ure to comply with any condition of a State edu-

1	cational agency's or local educational agency's eligi-
2	bility under this part, the Secretary shall take 1 or
3	more of the following actions:
4	"(A) Recover funds under section 452 of
5	the General Education Provisions Act.
6	"(B) Withhold, in whole or in part, any
7	further payments to the State under this part.
8	"(C) Refer the case to the Office of the In-
9	spector General at the Department of Edu-
10	cation.
11	"(D) Refer the matter for appropriate en-
12	forcement action, which may include referral to
13	the Department of Justice.
14	"(4) Opportunity for hearing.—
15	"(A) Withholding funds.—Prior to
16	withholding any funds under this section, the
17	Secretary shall provide reasonable notice and an
18	opportunity for a hearing to the State edu-
19	cational agency involved.
20	"(B) Suspension.—Pending the outcome
21	of any hearing to withhold payments under sub-
22	section (b), the Secretary may suspend pay-
23	ments to a recipient, suspend the authority of
24	the recipient to obligate funds under this part,
25	or both, after such recipient has been given rea-

1	sonable notice and an opportunity to show
2	cause why future payments or authority to obli-
3	gate funds under this part should not be sus-
4	pended.
5	"(5) Report to congress.—The Secretary
6	shall report to the Committee on Education and the
7	Workforce of the House of Representatives and the
8	Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
9	sions of the Senate within 30 days of taking enforce-
10	ment action pursuant to paragraph (1), (2), or (3),
11	on the specific action taken and the reasons why en-
12	forcement action was taken.
13	"(6) Nature of withholding.—
14	"(A) Limitation.—If the Secretary with-
15	holds further payments pursuant to paragraph
16	(2) or (3), the Secretary may determine—
17	"(i) that such withholding will be lim-
18	ited to programs or projects, or portions of
19	programs or projects, that affected the
20	Secretary's determination under subsection
21	(d)(2); or
22	"(ii) that the State educational agency
23	shall not make further payments under
24	this part to specified State agencies or
25	local educational agencies that caused or

1	were involved in the Secretary's determina-
2	tion under subsection (d)(2).
3	"(B) WITHHOLDING UNTIL RECTIFIED.—
4	Until the Secretary is satisfied that the condi-
5	tion that caused the initial withholding has
6	been substantially rectified—
7	"(i) payments to the State under this
8	part shall be withheld in whole or in part;
9	and
10	"(ii) payments by the State edu-
11	cational agency under this part shall be
12	limited to State agencies and local edu-
13	cational agencies whose actions did not
14	cause or were not involved in the Sec-
15	retary's determination under subsection
16	(d)(2), as the case may be.
17	"(7) Public Attention.—Any State that has
18	received notice under subsection (d)(2) shall, by
19	means of a public notice, take such measures as may
20	be necessary to bring the pendency of an action pur-
21	suant to this subsection to the attention of the pub-
22	lic within the State.
23	"(8) Judicial review.—
24	"(A) IN GENERAL.—If any State is dissat-
25	isfied with the Secretary's action with respect

to the eligibility of the State under section 612, such State may, not later than 60 days after notice of such action, file with the United States court of appeals for the circuit in which such State is located a petition for review of that action. A copy of the petition shall be transmitted by the clerk of the court to the Secretary. The Secretary thereupon shall file in the court the record of the proceedings upon which the Secretary's action was based, as provided in section 2112 of title 28, United States Code.

"(B) Jurisdiction; review by united states supreme court.—Upon the filing of such petition, the court shall have jurisdiction to affirm the action of the Secretary or to set it aside, in whole or in part. The judgment of the court shall be subject to review by the Supreme Court of the United States upon certionari or certification as provided in section 1254 of title 28, United States Code.

"(C) STANDARD OF REVIEW.—The findings of fact by the Secretary, if supported by substantial evidence, shall be conclusive, but the court, for good cause shown, may remand the case to the Secretary to take further evidence,

and the Secretary may thereupon make new or 1 2 modified findings of fact and may modify the 3 Secretary's previous action, and shall file in the 4 court the record of the further proceedings. 5 Such new or modified findings of fact shall be 6 conclusive if supported by substantial evidence. 7 "(f) STATE ENFORCEMENT.—If a State educational 8 agency determines that a local educational agency is not 9 meeting the requirements of this part, including the tar-10 gets in the State's performance plan, the State educational 11 agency shall prohibit the local educational agency from re-12 ducing the local educational agency's maintenance of ef-13 fort under section 613(a)(2)(C) for any fiscal year. "(g) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this sec-14 15 tion shall be construed to restrict the Secretary from utilizing any authority under the General Education Provi-16 17 sions Act to monitor and enforce the requirements of this 18 title. 19 "(h) DIVIDED STATE AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY.— 20 For purposes of this section, where responsibility for en-21 suring that the requirements of this part are met with re-22 spect to children with disabilities who are convicted as 23 adults under State law and incarcerated in adult prisons is assigned to a public agency other than the State edu-25 cational agency pursuant to section 612(a)(11)(C), the

1	Secretary, in instances where the Secretary finds that the
2	failure to comply substantially with the provisions of this
3	part are related to a failure by the public agency, shall
4	take appropriate corrective action to ensure compliance
5	with this part, except that—
6	"(1) any reduction or withholding of payments
7	to the State shall be proportionate to the total funds
8	allotted under section 611 to the State as the num-
9	ber of eligible children with disabilities in adult pris-
10	ons under the supervision of the other public agency
11	is proportionate to the number of eligible individuals
12	with disabilities in the State under the supervision
13	of the State educational agency; and
14	"(2) any withholding of funds under paragraph
15	(1) shall be limited to the specific agency responsible
16	for the failure to comply with this part.
17	"(i) Data Capacity and Technical Assistance
18	REVIEW.—The Secretary shall—
19	"(1) review the data collection and analysis ca-
20	pacity of States to ensure that data and information
21	determined necessary for implementation of this sec-
22	tion is collected, analyzed, and accurately reported to
23	the Secretary; and
24	"(2) provide technical assistance (from funds
25	reserved under section 611(c)), where needed, to im-

1	prove the capacity of States to meet the data collec-
2	tion requirements.
3	"SEC. 617. ADMINISTRATION.
4	"(a) Responsibilities of Secretary.—The Sec-
5	retary shall—
6	"(1) cooperate with, and (directly or by grant
7	or contract) furnish technical assistance necessary
8	to, a State in matters relating to—
9	"(A) the education of children with disabil-
10	ities; and
11	"(B) carrying out this part; and
12	"(2) provide short-term training programs and
13	institutes.
14	"(b) Prohibition Against Federal Mandates,
15	DIRECTION, OR CONTROL.—Nothing in this title shall be
16	construed to authorize an officer or employee of the Fed-
17	eral Government to mandate, direct, or control a State,
18	local educational agency, or school's specific instructional
19	content, academic achievement standards and assess-
20	ments, curriculum, or program of instruction.
21	"(c) Confidentiality.—The Secretary shall take
22	appropriate action, in accordance with section 444 of the
23	General Education Provisions Act, to ensure the protec-
24	tion of the confidentiality of any personally identifiable

25 data, information, and records collected or maintained by

- 1 the Secretary and by State educational agencies and local
- 2 educational agencies pursuant to this part.
- 3 "(d) Personnel.—The Secretary is authorized to
- 4 hire qualified personnel necessary to carry out the Sec-
- 5 retary's duties under subsection (a), under section 618,
- 6 and under subpart 4 of part D, without regard to the pro-
- 7 visions of title 5, United States Code, relating to appoint-
- 8 ments in the competitive service and without regard to
- 9 chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title
- 10 relating to classification and general schedule pay rates,
- 11 except that no more than 20 such personnel shall be em-
- 12 ployed at any time.
- 13 "(e) Model Forms.—Not later than the date that
- 14 the Secretary publishes final regulations under this title,
- 15 to implement amendments made by the Individuals with
- 16 Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, the Sec-
- 17 retary shall publish and disseminate widely to States, local
- 18 educational agencies, and parent and community training
- 19 and information centers—
- 20 "(1) a model IEP form;
- 21 "(2) a model individualized family service plan
- 22 (IFSP) form;
- "(3) a model form of the notice of procedural
- safeguards described in section 615(d); and

1	"(4) a model form of the prior written notice
2	described in subsections (b)(3) and (c)(1) of section
3	615 that is consistent with the requirements of this
4	part and is sufficient to meet such requirements.
5	"SEC. 618. PROGRAM INFORMATION.
6	"(a) In General.—Each State that receives assist-
7	ance under this part, and the Secretary of the Interior,
8	shall provide data each year to the Secretary of Education
9	and the public on the following:
10	"(1)(A) The number and percentage of children
11	with disabilities, by race, ethnicity, limited English
12	proficiency status, gender, and disability category,
13	who are in each of the following separate categories:
14	"(i) Receiving a free appropriate public
15	education.
16	"(ii) Participating in regular education.
17	"(iii) In separate classes, separate schools
18	or facilities, or public or private residential fa-
19	cilities.
20	"(iv) For each year of age from age 14
21	through 21, stopped receiving special education
22	and related services because of program comple-
23	tion (including graduation with a regular sec-
24	ondary school diploma), or other reasons, and

1	the reasons why those children stopped receiv-
2	ing special education and related services.
3	"(v)(I) Removed to an interim alternative
4	educational setting under section $615(k)(1)$ .
5	"(II) The acts or items precipitating
6	those removals.
7	"(III) The number of children with
8	disabilities who are subject to long-term
9	suspensions or expulsions.
10	"(B) The number and percentage of children
11	with disabilities, by race, gender, and ethnicity, who
12	are receiving early intervention services.
13	"(C) The number and percentage of children
14	with disabilities, by race, gender, and ethnicity, who,
15	from birth through age 2, stopped receiving early
16	intervention services because of program completion
17	or for other reasons.
18	"(D) The incidence and duration of disciplinary
19	actions by race, ethnicity, limited English proficiency
20	status, gender, and disability category, of children
21	with disabilities, including suspensions of 1 day or
22	more.
23	"(E) The number and percentage of children
24	with disabilities who are removed to alternative edu-
25	cational settings or expelled as compared to children

1	without disabilities who are removed to alternative
2	educational settings or expelled.
3	"(F) The number of due process complaints
4	filed under section 615 and the number of hearings
5	conducted.
6	"(G) The number of hearings requested under
7	section 615(k) and the number of changes in place-
8	ments ordered as a result of those hearings.
9	"(H) The number of mediations held and the
10	number of settlement agreements reached through
11	such mediations.
12	"(2) The number and percentage of infants and
13	toddlers, by race, and ethnicity, who are at risk of
14	having substantial developmental delays (as defined
15	in section 632), and who are receiving early inter-
16	vention services under part C.
17	"(3) Any other information that may be re-
18	quired by the Secretary.
19	"(b) Data Reporting.—
20	"(1) Protection of identifiable data.—
21	The data described in subsection (a) shall be pub-
22	licly reported by each State in a manner that does
23	not result in the disclosure of data identifiable to in-
24	dividual children.

1	"(2) Sampling.—The Secretary may permit
2	States and the Secretary of the Interior to obtain
3	the data described in subsection (a) through sam-
4	pling.
5	"(c) Technical Assistance.—The Secretary may
6	provide technical assistance to States to ensure compliance
7	with the data collection and reporting requirements under
8	this title.
9	"(d) Disproportionality.—
10	"(1) In General.—Each State that receives
11	assistance under this part, and the Secretary of the
12	Interior, shall provide for the collection and exam-
13	ination of data to determine if significant
14	disproportionality based on race and ethnicity is oc-
15	curring in the State and the local educational agen-
16	cies of the State with respect to—
17	"(A) the identification of children as chil-
18	dren with disabilities, including the identifica-
19	tion of children as children with disabilities in
20	accordance with a particular impairment de-
21	scribed in section 602(3);
22	"(B) the placement in particular edu-
23	cational settings of such children; and

1	"(C) the incidence, duration, and type of
2	disciplinary actions, including suspensions and
3	expulsions.
4	"(2) REVIEW AND REVISION OF POLICIES,
5	PRACTICES, AND PROCEDURES.—In the case of a de-
6	termination of significant disproportionality with re-
7	spect to the identification of children as children
8	with disabilities, or the placement in particular edu-
9	cational settings of such children, in accordance with
10	paragraph (1), the State or the Secretary of the In-
11	terior, as the case may be, shall—
12	"(A) provide for the review and, if appro-
13	priate, revision of the policies, procedures, and
14	practices used in such identification or place-
15	ment to ensure that such policies, procedures
16	and practices comply with the requirements of
17	this title;
18	"(B) require any local educational agency
19	identified under paragraph (1) to reserve the
20	maximum amount of funds under section 613(f)
21	to provide comprehensive coordinated early in-
22	tervening services to serve children in the local
23	educational agency, particularly children in
24	those groups that were significantly overidenti-
25	fied under paragraph (1); and

1	"(C) require the local educational agency
2	to publicly report on the revision of policies,
3	practices, and procedures described under sub-
4	paragraph (A).
5	"SEC. 619. PRESCHOOL GRANTS.
6	"(a) In General.—The Secretary shall provide
7	grants under this section to assist States to provide special
8	education and related services, in accordance with this
9	part—
10	"(1) to children with disabilities aged 3 through
11	5, inclusive; and
12	"(2) at the State's discretion, to 2-year-old chil-
13	dren with disabilities who will turn 3 during the
14	school year.
15	"(b) Eligibility.—A State shall be eligible for a
16	grant under this section if such State—
17	"(1) is eligible under section 612 to receive a
18	grant under this part; and
19	"(2) makes a free appropriate public education
20	available to all children with disabilities, aged 3
21	through 5, residing in the State.
22	"(c) Allocations to States.—
23	"(1) In General.—The Secretary shall allo-
24	cate the amount made available to carry out this

1	section for a fiscal year among the States in accord-
2	ance with paragraph (2) or (3), as the case may be.
3	"(2) Increase in funds.—If the amount
4	available for allocations to States under paragraph
5	(1) for a fiscal year is equal to or greater than the
6	amount allocated to the States under this section for
7	the preceding fiscal year, those allocations shall be
8	calculated as follows:
9	"(A) ALLOCATION.—
10	"(i) In general.—Except as pro-
11	vided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary
12	shall—
13	"(I) allocate to each State the
14	amount the State received under this
15	section for fiscal year 1997;
16	"(II) allocate 85 percent of any
17	remaining funds to States on the
18	basis of the States' relative popu-
19	lations of children aged 3 through 5;
20	and
21	"(III) allocate 15 percent of
22	those remaining funds to States on
23	the basis of the States' relative popu-
24	lations of all children aged 3 through
25	5 who are living in poverty.

1	"(ii) Data.—For the purpose of mak-
2	ing grants under this paragraph, the Sec-
3	retary shall use the most recent population
4	data, including data on children living in
5	poverty, that are available and satisfactory
6	to the Secretary.
7	"(B) Limitations.—Notwithstanding sub-
8	paragraph (A), allocations under this paragraph
9	shall be subject to the following:
10	"(i) Preceding Years.—No State's
11	allocation shall be less than its allocation
12	under this section for the preceding fiscal
13	year.
14	"(ii) Minimum.—No State's allocation
15	shall be less than the greatest of—
16	(I) the sum of—
17	"(aa) the amount the State
18	received under this section for
19	fiscal year 1997; and
20	"(bb) 1/3 of 1 percent of the
21	amount by which the amount ap-
22	propriated under subsection (j)
23	for the fiscal year exceeds the
24	amount appropriated for this sec-
25	tion for fiscal year 1997;

1	"(II) the sum of—
2	"(aa) the amount the State
3	received under this section for
4	the preceding fiscal year; and
5	"(bb) that amount multi-
6	plied by the percentage by which
7	the increase in the funds appro-
8	priated under this section from
9	the preceding fiscal year exceeds
10	1.5 percent; or
11	"(III) the sum of—
12	"(aa) the amount the State
13	received under this section for
14	the preceding fiscal year; and
15	"(bb) that amount multi-
16	plied by 90 percent of the per-
17	centage increase in the amount
18	appropriated under this section
19	from the preceding fiscal year.
20	"(iii) Maximum.—Notwithstanding
21	clause (ii), no State's allocation under this
22	paragraph shall exceed the sum of—
23	"(I) the amount the State re-
24	ceived under this section for the pre-
25	ceding fiscal year; and

1	"(II) that amount multiplied by
2	the sum of 1.5 percent and the per-
3	centage increase in the amount appro-
4	priated under this section from the
5	preceding fiscal year.
6	"(C) RATABLE REDUCTIONS.—If the
7	amount available for allocations under this
8	paragraph is insufficient to pay those alloca-
9	tions in full, those allocations shall be ratably
10	reduced, subject to subparagraph (B)(i).
11	"(3) Decrease in funds.—If the amount
12	available for allocations to States under paragraph
13	(1) for a fiscal year is less than the amount allo-
14	cated to the States under this section for the pre-
15	ceding fiscal year, those allocations shall be cal-
16	culated as follows:
17	"(A) Allocations.—If the amount avail-
18	able for allocations is greater than the amount
19	allocated to the States for fiscal year 1997,
20	each State shall be allocated the sum of—
21	"(i) the amount the State received
22	under this section for fiscal year 1997; and
23	"(ii) an amount that bears the same
24	relation to any remaining funds as the in-
25	crease the State received under this section

1	for the preceding fiscal year over fiscal
2	year 1997 bears to the total of all such in-
3	creases for all States.
4	"(B) RATABLE REDUCTIONS.—If the
5	amount available for allocations is equal to or
6	less than the amount allocated to the States for
7	fiscal year 1997, each State shall be allocated
8	the amount the State received for fiscal year
9	1997, ratably reduced, if necessary.
10	"(d) Reservation for State Activities.—
11	"(1) In General.—Each State may reserve
12	not more than the amount described in paragraph
13	(2) for administration and other State-level activities
14	in accordance with subsections (e) and (f).
15	"(2) Amount described.—For each fiscal
16	year, the Secretary shall determine and report to the
17	State educational agency an amount that is 25 per-
18	cent of the amount the State received under this sec-
19	tion for fiscal year 1997, cumulatively adjusted by
20	the Secretary for each succeeding fiscal year by the
21	lesser of—
22	"(A) the percentage increase, if any, from
23	the preceding fiscal year in the State's alloca-
24	tion under this section; or

1	"(B) the percentage increase, if any, from
2	the preceding fiscal year in the Consumer Price
3	Index For All Urban Consumers published by
4	the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Depart-
5	ment of Labor.
6	"(e) STATE ADMINISTRATION.—
7	"(1) In general.—For the purpose of admin-
8	istering this section (including the coordination of
9	activities under this part with, and providing tech-
10	nical assistance to, other programs that provide
11	services to children with disabilities) a State may
12	use not more than 20 percent of the maximum
13	amount the State may reserve under subsection (d)
14	for any fiscal year.
15	"(2) Administration of Part c.—Funds de-
16	scribed in paragraph (1) may also be used for the
17	administration of part C.
18	"(f) OTHER STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES.—Each State
19	shall use any funds the State reserves under subsection
20	(d) and does not use for administration under subsection
21	(e)—
22	"(1) for support services (including establishing
23	and implementing the mediation process required by
24	section 615(e)), which may benefit children with dis-
25	abilities younger than 3 or older than 5 as long as

1	those services also benefit children with disabilities
2	aged 3 through 5;
3	"(2) for direct services for children eligible for
4	services under this section;
5	"(3) for activities at the State and local levels
6	to meet the performance goals established by the
7	State under section 612(a)(15);
8	"(4) to supplement other funds used to develop
9	and implement a statewide coordinated services sys-
10	tem designed to improve results for children and
11	families, including children with disabilities and their
12	families, but not more than 1 percent of the amount
13	received by the State under this section for a fiscal
14	year;
15	"(5) to provide early intervention services
16	(which shall include an educational component that
17	promotes school readiness and incorporates
18	preliteracy, language, and numeracy skills) in ac-
19	cordance with part C to children with disabilities
20	who are eligible for services under this section and
21	who previously received services under part C until
22	such children enter, or are eligible under State law
23	to enter, kindergarten; or

1	"(6) at the State's discretion, to continue serv-
2	ice coordination or case management for families
3	who receive services under part C.
4	"(g) Subgrants to Local Educational Agen-
5	CIES.—
6	"(1) Subgrants required.—Each State that
7	receives a grant under this section for any fiscal
8	year shall distribute all of the grant funds that the
9	State does not reserve under subsection (d) to local
10	educational agencies in the State that have estab-
11	lished their eligibility under section 613, as follows:
12	"(A) Base payments.—The State shall
13	first award each local educational agency de-
14	scribed in paragraph (1) the amount that agen-
15	cy would have received under this section for
16	fiscal year 1997 if the State had distributed 75
17	percent of its grant for that year under section
18	619(c)(3), as such section was then in effect.
19	"(B) Allocation of Remaining
20	FUNDS.—After making allocations under sub-
21	paragraph (A), the State shall—
22	"(i) allocate 85 percent of any re-
23	maining funds to those local educational
24	agencies on the basis of the relative num-
25	bers of children enrolled in public and pri-

24

cational agencies serve.

1 elementary schools and secondary 2 schools within the local educational agen-3 cy's jurisdiction; and 4 "(ii) allocate 15 percent of those re-5 maining funds to those local educational 6 agencies in accordance with their relative 7 numbers of children living in poverty, as 8 determined by the State educational agen-9 cy. 10 "(2) Reallocation of funds.—If a State 11 educational agency determines that a local edu-12 cational agency is adequately providing a free appro-13 priate public education to all children with disabil-14 ities aged 3 through 5 residing in the area served by 15 the local educational agency with State and local 16 funds, the State educational agency may reallocate 17 any portion of the funds under this section that are 18 not needed by that local educational agency to pro-19 vide a free appropriate public education to other 20 local educational agencies in the State that are not 21 adequately providing special education and related 22 services to all children with disabilities aged 3 23 through 5 residing in the areas the other local edu-

- 1 "(h) Part C Inapplicable.—Part C does not apply
- 2 to any child with a disability receiving a free appropriate
- 3 public education, in accordance with this part, with funds
- 4 received under this section.
- 5 "(i) State Defined.—In this section, the term
- 6 'State' means each of the 50 States, the District of Colum-
- 7 bia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- 8 "(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
- 9 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
- 10 such sums as may be necessary.